


# There is No "There" There

a manifesto about making excuses

By Osayi E mokpae

A close-up of a white daisy flower with a yellow center, set against a dark, textured background. The flower is in the lower right corner, and its petals are clearly visible. The background is a dark brown with a cross-hatched texture. In the lower left, there is a smaller, out-of-focus yellow flower.



**"Man's real life is happy, chiefly because he is ever expecting that it soon will be so." ~ Edgar Allen Poe**

It's funny? No! it's not funny.  
Why are we always waiting until we get "there!"

"I'll be happy when I get married (or divorced or they die)."  
"I'll be happy when I get rich (or get rid of all this money or they die)."  
"I'll be happy when I get to heaven (or die or they die)"  
"I'll be happy when...I get 'there.'"

It's about time we realized that there is no "there" - there's only here and now.

There's no yesterday, or tomorrow- only our perception of yesterday and our hope of what will be tomorrow. But we have no control over tomorrow. We only have control over today, and if we don't make the best use of our time, then we have only ourselves to blame.

**There's  
only  
HERE  
and  
NOW.**



**"I must govern the clock, not be governed by it." ~ Golda Meir**

But we spend so much time worrying, hoping, looking, waiting- not realizing that we missed it. We missed the life that God gave us- the one that he gave us to live, to be successful and to enjoy.

## **Time is a gift from God**

Time is a gift from God- it makes us (at least it ought to make us) cherish what was, and it gives us a vision of what could be. So that we can work, rest, and live continuously with God...but what do we do with our time instead? We worry it all away- we complain it all away, we focus on everything we don't have and wish we did, and everything we wish we won't have but fear we will.

**"Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers." ~ Veronica A. Shoffstall**

**...he will  
probably  
only want  
directions  
to his  
princess**

Why did you decide not to buy that house that was amazingly perfect for you? Oh you are waiting until you get married. You are waiting until you meet this amazing man of your dreams who will sweep you off your feet and fix all your problems- all the dysfunction that existed in your family, all the pain from your past relationships, all your desires to be accepted and appreciated that went unfulfilled for so long.

Yes when this amazing, dashing, ~~toothless~~ (I mean charming) man comes galloping toward you with his hair blowing in the wind ...he will probably only want directions to his princess. You know - the one who was not pining and waiting for him, but instead was busy building a life for herself and actually had something to offer the relationship.



**"Those who think they have not time for bodily exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness." ~ Edward Stanley**

You hate the word "fat," but every time you look in the mirror that's what you think: Fat. You've gained 5 pounds every 2 months since you graduated from college...6 years ago. And honey those little numbers add up very quickly!

You'll start exercising...soon...very soon...you keep telling yourself. You'll change your eating habits...soon...very soon...you continue telling yourself.

You are just waiting until next year when the stars will be perfectly aligned and your job will be more flexible and your friends will be more supportive and the kids can take care of themselves, then you will have more time...and...and...and you're just waiting until you get there. So the years go by, and you watch yourself get rounder and rounder, and you watch the weight pile on, and change never happens.

**So the  
years go  
by, and  
you  
watch  
yourself  
get  
rounder  
and  
rounder...**

**"The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play." ~Arnold Toynbee**

**Why are  
you still at  
a job you  
hate? No  
choice eh?**

Why are you still at a job you hate? No choice eh? You are right somebody forced you to buy all those nice things for yourself and your beautiful children, who coincidentally need to buy something new every couple of days.

You are miserable when you wake up in the morning, you are miserable when you go to sleep at night, you are miserable when you hear that the company you work for is firing people (or letting people go, or downsizing, or rightsizing, or restructuring, or reorganizing or reengineering), and you are miserable when you are promoted and have to spend even more time at the office.

But you know that one day you will win the lottery, or your children will grow up and never need you, or your things will get so evolved that they will get jobs and pay for themselves...whatever the case may be, you know that one day you will get "there" and you will never have to be miserable again.

**"A life spent in constant labor is a life wasted, save a man be such a fool as to regard a fulsome obituary notice as ample reward." ~George Jean Nathan**

Thank God its Friday you say to yourself EVERY single Friday- why? What's so blasted special about Friday? Yes we should thank God, but why don't you thank God for Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday for that matter. You have the audacity to call Wednesday "Hump day" the poor thing...it never saw it coming. But what's so great about Friday?

Oh yes it's the beginning of the weekend...but what's so great about the weekend? What kind of wasted life are you living, if you are only living for the weekend?

How many hours of your life are you wasting doing things that don't matter and drain you and make you miserable? Who died and made you the king or queen of Misery? Please! Please! I don't want to hear your excuses, I already know. You will stop being miserable as soon as you get to that place, that illusive place where every day is just another Friday.

**What kind  
of wasted  
life are you  
living, if  
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the  
weekend?**



**"Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same." ~Francesca Reigler**

Bills bills bills?!! You can't wait until you are making enough money so you never have to worry about money again. Ahh then you will kick off your shoes fold your arms and sit in your \$200,000 easy chair and think about how great life is.

But until then...until you make (or win or steal) your gazillions, you will just be miserable and keep complaining about how woefully unlucky you are and how life just stinks for you. You are right your life stinks...and no one wants to be around you...but it's not because of what you think...it's actually because your attitude stinks...

The Miserable are miserable.

And while Misery loves Company, Company doesn't share the same sentiments.

**And while Misery loves Company, Company doesn't share the same sentiments.**



**"You can tell the size of your God by looking at the size of your worry list. The longer your list, the smaller your God." ~Author Unknown**

It doesn't matter the situation, the place or the time, there are many miserably married and miserably single people, there are also many miserably rich and miserably poor people.

It really doesn't matter where your life is right now. We all have choices to make every day, and the choices we make define who we are and determine the kind of life we will live.

If you "find yourself" (yup let's NOT take responsibility for our decisions!) making wrong choices and hoping that one day you will get "there" and everything will work out perfectly...please stop the insanity, and while you are at it please stop blaming God for your stupid decisions too.

**stop  
blaming  
God for  
your stupid  
decisions.**

**"What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."**  
~Eleanor Powell

God does not want us pining for anything – not tomorrow, not even heaven, because we are to realize the great gift that he has given us. We are to realize that life is to be enjoyed. We are to realize that God has already given us his best – Jesus.

There is no need to wait until “there” - focus instead on now, on God on this life! - If you are not living the life you desire (the life Jesus died to give you) - why not?

**If you are not living the life you desire (the life Jesus died to give you) - why not?**



# It's time to be free!

Are you angry yet? Good! I want you to get angry. I want you to get so angry that you finally do something.

Stop telling me life is not fair...Guess what? Life's not fair for anyone!

It's time to be free!



## About **Osayi Emokpae**

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Thank you!



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